

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00

INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 MCT-01 /077 W

-----081754Z 118448 /43

O 081638Z JUN 77

FM AMEMBASSY VICTORIA

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 403

AMEMBASSY LONDON

INFO NAIROBI 491

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

STATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VICTORIA 320

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, PINS, US, FR

SUBJECT: SEYCHELLES COUP D'ETAT POSITION OF REGIME FOUR DAYS AFTER
SEIZING POWER.

1. EMBASSY HAS UNCONFIRMED REPORT THAT JAMES PILLAY, RENE'S SENIOR POLICE COLLABORATOR, HAS MADE BRIEF TRIP TO SECOND LARGEST ISLAND OF PRASLIN AND THAT REGIME NOT BEING ACTIVELY OPPOSED THERE. (REGULAR TOURIST AIR AND SEA SERVICE RESUMED TODAY.) IN ADDITION, THERE ARE SOME TENTATIVE SIGNS WHICH SUGGEST REGIME MAY BE FEELING SLIGHTLY MORE SECURE. NUMBER OF GUNMEN AT CENTRAL POLICE STATION HAS DECLINED MARKEDLY IN PAST 24 HOURS AND RENE AND HIS MINISTERS HAVE VENTURED FORTH FROM THAT BASTION TO TRAVEL TO GOVERNMENT OFFICES AND ATTEND PRESS CONFERENCE. ALSO, ARMED SPECIAL FORCE POLICE HAVE BEEN OBSERVED FOR FIRST TIME AT ROADBLOCKS ALONGSIDE CIVILIAN IRREGULARS. VISITORS TO POLICE HQ REPORT THAT PILLAY, WHO IS KNOWN STERN DISCIPLINARIAN, HAS IMPOSED CONSIDERABLE DEGREE OF
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CONTROL OVER BOTH POLICE AND CIVILIANS.

2. JUNE 9 IS PUBLIC HOLIDAY (CORPUS CHRISTI) AND REGIME HAS ANNOUNCED FURTHER RELAXATION IN CURFEW "BECAUSE IT WISHES TO RESPECT RELIGIOUS TRADITIONS". NON-CURFEW PERIOD EXTENDED BY FOUR HOURS TO 0600-1800 BUT POPULACE WARNED AGAINST "LOITERING" BULLETIN ALSO SAID ALL WORKERS SHOULD BE

ABLE TO RETURN TO THEIR JOBS ON FRIDAY THOUGH SCHOOLS WILL
REMAIN CLOSED AT LEAST THROUGH JUNE 13. SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERIDGES
IS STILL STRICTLY PROHIBITED.

3. ON OTHER SIDE, RENE TOLD BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIOUERR
PUGH IN 1600 TELCOM JUNE 8 THAT HE IS STILL VERY CONCERNED
WITH POSSIBLE "MERCENCERY ATTACK". HE ADDED THAT HIS FORCES
WERE PREPARED TO DEAL WITH SUCH AN EVENTUALITY. (COMMENT:
IT IS UNLIKELY THAT RENE COULD HOLD OUT AGAINST WELL-TRAINED
FORCE OF EVEN MODEST SIZE AT THIS TIME.) EXHAUSTIVE CHECK OF
BAGGAGE OF ALL TRAVELLERS CONTINUED TODAY AT AIRPORT.

4. COMMENT: IRRESPECTIVE OF ACTUAL OR PERCEIVED SECURITY
SITUATION, REGIME WOULD PROBABLY FEEL IT DESIRABLE TO
GRADUALLY RELAX RESTRICTIONS IN ORDER CONVEY IMPRESSION OF
GROWING CONTROL AND AVOID, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, BACKLASH OF
AN INDEPENDENTLY-MINDED PEOPLE WHO RESENT BEING TOLD WHAT
TO DO. KEY FACTOR ABOUT WHICH NOTHING KNOWN LOCALLY IS WHAT
ACTIVITIES MANCHAM AND HIS FIVE SDP MINISTERS MAY BE
ENGAGED IN IN EUROPE TO UNDERMINE RENE'S POSITION.

MATTSON

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Message Attributes

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Sent Date: 08-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
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